

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GABORO 02132 112028Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 EUR-12 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /106 W
-----092178 121133Z /10

R 110824Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2665
INFO AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GABORONE 2132

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, BC, RH
SUBJECT: SECURITY ALONG THE RHODESIAN BORDER

REF: (A) GABORONE 1975 (B) GABORONE 1949 (C) GABORONE 2101

SUMMARY: THE DAILY NEWS, JULY 5, CONTAINED A STATEMENT
RELEASED BY OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT WARNING BOTSWANA
RESIDENTS TO STAY AWAY FROM THE RHODESIAN BORDER.
PESSIMISTIC TONE OF PRESS RELEASE WAS REITERATED BY
VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR LEGWAILA
DURING SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS AT JULY 4 RECEPTION. END
SUMMARY.

1. GOB PRESS STATEMENT INDICATED THERE IS A SERIOUS RISE
IN CONCERN OVER THE DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION INSIDE
RHODESIA. THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT FEELS THE INTENSE
PRESSURE ON THE RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES, CAUSED BY
NATIONALIST GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES, MAY RESULT IN THE INCREASE
OF ATTACKS ALONG THE BORDER AS THE RSF ATTEMPT TO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 GABORO 02132 112028Z

VENT THEIR FRUSTRATION.

2. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT IN THE PAST WHEN RHODESIAN
FORCES FOUND THEMSELVES UNABLE TO COPE WITH INTERNAL
LIBERATION STRUGGLES THEY HAVE RESORTED TO LAUNCHING
INCURSIONS AGAINST NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES UNDER THE
PRETEXT OF HOT PURSUIT. BOTSWANA NATIONALS WERE

DISCOURAGED FROM GOING NEAR THE BORDER UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. THE GOB STATEMENT REAFFIRMED BOTSWANA'S POLICY OF NOT PERMITTING ITS TERRITORY TO BE USED AS A GUERRILLA BASE.

4. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR AT JULY 4 RECEPTION (REF. C) VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE UNDERSCORED GOB CONCERNS WITH WHAT IT SEES AS INCREASING THREAT OF RHODESIAN ATTACKS ON BOTSWANA. MASIRE SAID THAT GOB EXPECTS MORE BORDER INCIDENTS AS RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES BECOME INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED WITH THEIR INABILITY TO CONTROL GUERRILLA ACTIVITY. AT SAME RECEPTION PRESIDENTIAL POLITICAL ADVISOR LEGWAILA TOLD EMBOFF THAT GOB SEES RECENT SPATE OF KILLINGS OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS INSIDE RHODESIA AS A VERY SERIOUS AND DISCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT. LEGWAILA TOLD US THAT HE NOW EXPECTS A FIGHT TO THE FINISH IN WHICH THE PF WILL EMERGE VICTORIOUS ONLY AFTER GREAT BLOODSHED. IF THIS TAKES PLACE, LEGWAILA PREDICTED THAT, WHEN PF FINALLY MARCHES INTO SALISBURY, VIRTUALLY ALL RHODESIAN WHITES WILL EITHER BE DEAD OR WILL HAVE FLED TO SOUTH AFRICA.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT THE UNUSUALLY STRONG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 GABORO 02132 112028Z

STATEMENTS BY MASIRE AND LEGWAILA AND THE GRIM TONE OF GOB'S PUBLIC PRESS RELEASE SYMBOLIZE GROWING SENSE OF PROFOUND PESSIMISM AMONG GOB OFFICIALS WHO MUST DEAL WITH RHODESIAN PROBLEMS. RECENT BORDER CLASH IN WHICH RHODESIANS CLAIMED TO HAVE ATTACKED ZIPRA FORCE OF 100 GUERRILLAS INSIDE BOTSWANA (REF. A) AND KILLING BY RHODESIAN FORCES OF THREE BOTSWANA CITIZENS WHO CROSSED BORDER INTO RHODESIA (REF. B) APPEAR TO SUBSTANTIATE GOB CLAIMS THAT RHODESIA/BOTSWANA TENSION IS AGAIN RISING. THIS APPARENTLY RENEWED RHODESIAN AGGRESSIVENESS MAY BE A RESPONSE TO WHAT RHODESIA SEES AS INCREASED ZIPRA ACTIVITY WITHIN BOTSWANA WHICH GOB DOES NOT HAVE MEANS TO CONTROL. WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH GOB ASSESSMENTS THAT MOUNTING FRUSTRATION AND ESCALATING VIOLENCE WITHIN RHODESIA MEANS MORE TROUBLE FOR BOTSWANA.

NORLAND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GABORO02132
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780285-0317
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780776/aaaacrlrn.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bb05cf77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GABORONE 1975, 78 GABORONE 1949, 78 GABORONE 2101
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2056619
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY ALONG THE RHODESIAN BORDER
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, PBOR, BC, RH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bb05cf77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014